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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – JANUARY 24, 2012

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At 11:44 p.m. City Council adjourned to Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

January 24, 2012

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 in the City Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, Deputy City Attorney Strader, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

*

Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:06 p.m. with all members present. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Deputy Police Chief Kreager.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Rhilinger.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA / MOTION TO
WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Friday, January 20, 2012.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Clerk Herbers announced that protest ballots would be accepted by Deputy City Clerk Poirier sitting at the table just outside the Council Chamber until the end of the hearing.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired fire captain Edgar Polston who passed away January 11.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2012-07 RE DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL BROWNE

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL BROWNE UPON HIS RETIRMENT FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE AFTER THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-07. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Scotto presented the resolution to Michael Browne.

Police Chief Neu expressed appreciation for Michael Brown's many years of dedicated service, noting that he was invaluable member of the Police Department's management team.

City Manager Jackson also thanked Michael Browne for his service.

6B. RESOLUTION NO. 2012-08 RE MARY DORNER

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING MARY DORNER UPON HIS RETIRMENT FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE AFTER TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-08. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6C. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS AND JARED SIDNEY TORRANCE AWARD

Mayor Scotto presented Citizen of the Year awards to June Lee and Melissa Wright for spearheading the effort to create Seaside Heroes Park in honor of three Army soldiers from Torrance who died in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mayor Scotto presented Citizen of the Year awards to Dee Hardison, Kristin Matsuda and Keith Montoya for serving on the Election and Candidates Ethics Committee and developing an ethics policy and comprehensive training program designed to encourage ethical conduct when campaigning for public office in Torrance.

Mayor Scotto presented the Jared Sidney Torrance award to Janet Payne in recognition of her decades of selfless service to the community. He briefly reviewed Ms. Payne's long history of community involvement, including her volunteer work with the Torrance Historical Society, the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association, the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, the Torrance Women's Club, the Torrance Centennial Committee, Leadership Torrance, the South Bay Children's Health Center, the Switzer Learning Center and the Volunteer Center.

The City Council recessed for a reception from 8:03 p.m. to 8:33 p.m.

6D. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council review applications and appoint members to fill vacancies on various commissions. The City Clerk will administer the oath of office to commissioners present.

City Clerk Herbers introduced the candidates and they were given an opportunity to briefly address the City Council.

The City Council made the following appointments:

Airport Commission

Dennis Johnson

Commission on Aging

Kathleen Davis and Bea Virobik

Environmental Quality & Energy

Conservation Commission

Timothy Cunningham and Scott Gobble

Planning Commission

Sara D'anjou and Steve Skoll

Water Commission

Deane Haddon and Linden Nishinaga

Civil Service Commission

James Stadler

Cultural Arts Commission

Lynda Bunting and Gerry Rische

Library Commission

Toni Sargent

Traffic Commission

Robert Rudolph

Mayor Scotto noted that openings remain on the Cable Television Advisory Board, the Civil Service Commission, and the Traffic Commission, which will be re-advertised.

City Clerk Herbers reported that those who have completed the required Commissioner Certification training will be notified of the remaining open seats, with appointments to be made at the February 28 City Council meeting.

City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of office to the newly appointed commissioners who were present at the meeting.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Jean Adelsman and Kurt Weideman, Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, announced a fundraiser entitled "Dancing with the South Bay Stars" to be held on Saturday, February 25, at 8:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Theatre, with additional information at www.TorranceArts.org.

7B. Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested clarification regarding a Redevelopment Agency agenda item and a contract with a consultant for economic development.

7C. Arthur Plourde, Torrance, reported on various maintenance issues he has observed, including damaged pavement, broken buttons on traffic signals, and drooping overhead cables. Mayor Scotto advised that these types of problems should be reported to the City Manager's office at 310.618.5880.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of December 6, 2011.

8B. SUBSIDY OF RENTAL FEES FOR USE OF COLUMBIA PARK

Considered separately, see page 5.

8C. TRAFFIC COMMISSION 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission and Public Works Director that City Council accept and file the Traffic Commission 2011 Annual Report.

8D. FEE AGREEMENT RE LEGAL SERVICES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council approve fee agreement with Rutan & Tucker to provide general legal services to the City for a total contract amount not to exceed \$20,000.

8E. AGREEMENT RE USE OF TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT HANGAR

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a month-to-month license agreement with the Southern California Historical Aviation Foundation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, for use of a City-owned one-half hangar (#2719-EE) located at Torrance Municipal Airport–Zamperini Field, during the development of the Western Museum of Flight.

8F. B-17 BOMBER EXHIBIT AT TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Airport Commission and the General Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) displaying their B-17 Bomber at Zamperini Field April 19 through April 23, 2012;
- 2) Designate the EAA's event as a special exhibit under Section 46.8.10 of the Torrance Municipal Code which exempts such events from aircraft noise regulations;
- 3) Allow the EAA to conduct flights for hire subject to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines; and
- 4) Approve appropriation and funding for this event in the amount of \$7,868.27.

8G. CHANGE ORDER RE BUS STOP ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize a change order to the contract with Victor Concrete (C2011-232) in the amount of \$22,950 to include construction of three (3) new curb ramps, concrete pad extensions and bus stop sign relocations to the Bus Stop Accessibility Improvement Project (S113), CDBG 601414-11; and
- 2) Authorize an appropriation and expenditure of \$22,950 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for a change order for the Bus Stop Accessibility Improvement Project (S113), CDBG 601414-11.

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8C through 8G. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar Item 8B was considered out of order at this time.

8B. SUBSIDY OF RENTAL FEES FOR USE OF COLUMBIA PARK

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve the subsidy of rental fees for the use of Columbia Park in the amount of \$300 for a fundraising walk and picnic sponsored by the Friends of Torrance Exceptional Athletes, Inc. on Saturday, June 2, 2012.

Morrie Rice, president of Friends of Torrance Exceptional Athletes, provided background information about the organization and thanked the Council for supporting this fundraising effort by subsidizing the rental fees for the park.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to approve the subsidy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

12. ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

**12A. EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT FOR BEVERAGE VENDING SERVICES/
NEW AGREEMENT FOR SNACK VENDING SERVICES**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to the beverage vending agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Southern California (C2008-011), extending the contract for one year, for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012; and
- 2) Approve an agreement with Joe Gonzalez to provide snack vending services for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that staff will develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) and return to the Council in the fall with a new multi-year agreement for approval. He noted that the Coca-Cola contract has generated over \$70,000 to date for Community Services Department programs and the Joe Gonzalez agreement provides \$6,000 per year.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

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City Clerk Herbers announced that AB23 established a new requirement for local agencies with legislative bodies that hold sequential or simultaneous meetings; that the Brown Act now requires the verbal disclosure of the compensation or stipend that members of the legislative body will receive as a result of convening a sequential or simultaneous meeting; and that State law authorizes each member of the City Council to receive an additional \$30 for a simultaneous meeting of the Redevelopment Agency.

At 9:08 p.m., the City Council convened as the Torrance Redevelopment Agency and Redevelopment Agency Agenda Item 4A was considered concurrently with City Council Agenda Item 12B.

12B. RESOLUTION AFFIRMING INTENT TO REMIT EXCESS PLEDGED SALES TAX REVENUES FROM REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO CITY OF TORRANCE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council adopt a Resolution affirming the City's intent to remit excess pledged sales tax revenues from the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance back to the City.

Finance Director Tsao advised that this action is necessary due to the demise of the Redevelopment Agency on February 1, 2012 and is meant to ensure that any sales tax revenue that is not needed to cover debt service for bonds issued by the RDA will continue to be returned to the City's General Fund.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO REAFFIRM PRIOR ACTIONS REMITTING EXCESS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SALES AND USE TAXES TO THE CITY

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-09. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

The Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

12C. CALLING OF 2012 TORRANCE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution calling a General Municipal Election on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 for the purpose of electing three councilmembers for four-year terms;
- 2) Adopt a Resolution requesting Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to agree to consolidate the election on the Statewide Primary Ballot; and
- 3) Adopt a resolution stating policy and regulations for candidate statements.

Councilmember Rhilinger, Councilmember Barnett and Councilmember Furey announced that they were recusing themselves from the third item, which deals with candidate statements, because they intend to run for reelection and this will affect them.

City Clerk Herbers reported that these actions are necessary to begin the election process for the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 for three councilmembers serving four-year terms. She advised that the first Resolution calls for the election to be held and the second resolution requests consolidation on the Los Angeles County ballot, noting that the City of Torrance is the only municipality that has a general municipal election on a partisan primary ballot. She reported that the third resolution, which sets forth regulations for the candidates, was included in the supplemental material along with an estimate from the L.A. County Registrar Recorder indicating that the election cost will be approximately \$194,000, not including the cost of printing candidate statements. She requested direction from the Council on the candidate statements, explaining that the cost of printing the statements will not be known until after the election and historically, the Council has kept the cost to candidates relatively low with the City assuming the balance of the cost.

Councilmember Sutherland indicated that he favored leaving the cost for candidate statements at \$400, the same as in the 2010 election. He noted that had voters approved a measure on last year's ballot, the Torrance Unified School District's election could have been consolidated with the City's election, thereby saving TUSD a considerable amount of money that could have been used to hire more teachers.

Mayor Scotto echoed Councilmember Sutherland's comments about election consolidation, and expressed the hope that the City of Torrance would be able to hold a stand-alone election in the future, rather than being tacked on to the primary ballot.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CALLING FOR THE HOLDING OF A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012, FOR THE ELECTION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AS REQUIRED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-04. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO CONSOLIDATE A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012, WITH THE STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE DATE PURSUANT TO §10403 OF THE ELECTIONS CODE

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-05. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE PERTAINING TO CANDIDATES STATEMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-06, with candidate statements to be limited to 200 words and the candidates' share of the cost to be \$400. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by a 4-0 vote, with Councilmembers Barnett, Furey and Rhilinger abstaining.

12D. RESOLUTIONS RE TRANSFER OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER POSITION TO SERVICES UNIT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Resolutions modifying the Memoranda of Understanding for employees represented by Torrance Municipal Employees – AFSCME, Local 1117 (Resolution No. 2011-26) and the Engineers and Torrance Fiscal Employees Association (Resolution No. 2011-76) reflecting the transfer of the Animal Control Officer position to the Services Unit. There is no cost to transfer the Animal Control Officer position to the Services Unit.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that the incumbents in the Animal Control Officer classification requested this transfer, which has been approved by both of the involved employee organizations and the Employee Relations Committee of the Civil Service Commission. He noted that with the transfer, the employees in this position will no longer qualify for an enhanced retirement plan with PARS (Public Agency Retirement System) therefore the pay range has been adjusted accordingly.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2011-26 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING THE HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY TORRANCE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AFSCME, LOCAL 1117

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-10. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2011-76 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING THE HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE ENGINEERS AND TORRANCE FISCAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-11. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

City Council took a brief recess from 9:36 p.m. to 9:54 p.m.

13. HEARINGS

13A. PROPOSED SANITATION FEE INCREASE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing on the proposed increase to the residential sanitation services fee of either \$1.50 or \$2.50 per month, depending on level of service, including a green waste recycling program;
- 2) Approve the annual Consumer Price Index adjustment for the next five years;
- 3) Approve February 1, 2012 for the start of the fee increase; and
- 4) Adopt a Resolution approving the proposed sanitation fee increase.

Mayor Scotto announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

With the aid of slides, Sanitation Services Manager Knapp reviewed the details of the proposed sanitation fee increase to be used to fund a new city-wide green waste program. He reported that the standard rate will be \$25.08 per month, which is \$1.50 more than the current rate of \$23.58; that residents may opt to have a 96-gallon refuse

container instead of the standard 64-gallon container for an additional \$1.00 per month; and that low income senior/disabled rates will not be affected. He provided an overview of the program's budget, routes and implementation schedule.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp explained that a green waste program is needed in order to maintain compliance with State mandates AB 939 and AB 341; that it will complement the Cool Cities program and Strategic Plan goals; and that it will ultimately save money as the cost of disposing refuse will increase as nearby landfills close. He discussed the City's refuse diversion goals and displayed a chart comparing Torrance's sanitation rates with other cities in the Los Angeles area.

Responding to questions from the Council, Sanitation Services Manager Knapp advised that should the Council decide not to go forward with the green waste program, the City faces the potential of \$10,000 per day in fines due to non-compliance with AB939. He clarified that the rate increase would begin in February for all residents regardless of whether or not green waste service has begun in their area, which could take as long as 10 months depending how quickly another refuse truck can be obtained.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment, noting that only written protests count as a formal protest.

City Clerk Herbers reported that approximately 1,577 documents have been received concerning the rate increase.

Andy Park, West High Environmental Club, expressed support for the proposed fee increase, citing the environmental and financial benefits of expanding the green waste program.

Daehee Kim, West High Environmental Club, reported on the results of a survey conducted by the club which indicated that the majority of residents support the green waste program even if it means a slight increase in fees.

Lola Unger, co-president of League of Women's Voters Torrance Area, expressed support for implementing the city-wide green waste program, stating that it was about time. She related her belief that the proposed fees were reasonable since some cities charge much more for the same service and noted that the green waste program will help the City meet its State-mandated refuse reduction goal.

Edward Avalos, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the cost differential between the 64-gallon and 96-gallon refuse containers and asked about the status of his application for reduced sanitation fees because he is a low-income senior.

Arthur Plourde, Torrance, contended that global warming is a myth, therefore there is no need to recycle green waste and the proposed fee increase is an unnecessary burden on residents. He cited a symposium held at UCLA in June 2011 entitled, "Is Green the New Tyranny." He related his belief that legislators in Sacramento are "morons" and offered to mount a campaign to repeal AB 939 and AB 341.

Chris Carbone, Torrance, suggested that the cost of green waste collection could be offset if recyclables were separated, because the money paid to the City per ton for recycled material would be 50% - 100% higher.

Mayor Scotto explained that this possibility has been explored, but it is not feasible because it would require a transfer station, which no one wants in their backyard, and the cost of trucking the recyclables to a distant location would negate any financial benefits.

Kathy Daigle, Torrance, expressed support for the proposed fee increase.

Jennifer Garrett, Torrance, stated that she supports the small fee increase to implement a city-wide green waste program, relating her experience that yard clippings take up a lot of space in the refuse bin.

Tim Cummings, Torrance, voiced objections to the public notice that was mailed to residents because it was not marked on the outside to indicate that there was ballot enclosed.

City Manager Jackson clarified that the notification sent to residents was a notice of public hearing, not a ballot.

Deputy City Attorney Strader advised that the City went the extra step of including a form in the notice of public hearing that residents could submit if they wished to protest the fee increase even though this is not required.

Mr. Cummings stated that he was opposed to the fee increase because of the annual CPI increase. He reiterated his objections to the process, reporting that some of the property owners with whom he had spoken did not received the public notice.

Frank Chao, Torrance, related his experience that sanitation services are better and less expensive in Redondo and Hermosa Beach. He urged the Council to reject the proposed fee increase.

Mayor Scotto explained that these cities contract out with private waste haulers and businesses are charged higher fees to offset the lower fee for residents.

Charles Leone, Torrance, voiced support for the fee increase, relating his belief that that there are many more pluses than minuses to the green waste program. Noting that there is great transparency in the way City business is conducted, he commended the Mayor and Council for their outstanding leadership and suggested that the anger expressed by some residents was misplaced.

Jason (last name inaudible/no speaker card), Torrance, requested clarification of the rate increase for residents who share alley containers, which was provided by staff.

Newt Young, Torrance, voiced objections to the annual CPI increase and submitted a protest form for the record. He reiterated his long-standing objection to the City's paying the employee's portion of retirement fund contributions.

Mayor Scotto explained that the CPI increase is necessary because dump fees increase each year and without the CPI increase, the City would have to go through the public hearing process every year in order to recoup this added cost. He noted that new hires pay their portion of retirement contributions as a result of changes made two years ago.

Councilmember Sutherland pointed out that Mr. Young enjoys an annual CPI increase as a Social Security recipient.

Jacqueline Bouvier, Torrance, voiced her opinion that the protest form included in the public hearing notice was misleading because it states that “no postmarks will be accepted,” which she and others interpreted to mean that the form could not be mailed and must be delivered in person, however, this is not the case.

Mayor Scotto clarified that the “no postmarks will be accepted” refers to the fact that written protests must be received by the date of this hearing and not just postmarked by that date.

Julie Hast, Torrance, expressed support for the fee increase to fund the green waste program and commended staff for keeping the fee so low. She also commended the West High Environmental Club for their efforts on this issue.

Craig Campbell, Torrance, reported that he owns and serves as trustee for several properties and requested clarification regarding who may sign a protest form. He expressed support for the fee increase.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, voiced his opinion that rather than charging residents, the green waste program should be paid for by eliminating pay raises for employees, reducing or eliminating goods and services provided to TUSD, changing the pension system, or operational efficiencies.

Mayor Scotto responded that employees have not received pay raises for two years; that there is widespread support for the assistance provided to TUSD; that pensions are regulated by the State, not the City; and that operational efficiencies have already enabled the cost of the green waste program to be reduced from \$5.86 per household, as originally proposed, to \$1.50 or \$2.50.

Mayor Scotto announced that this was the last chance to submit a protest form.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Herbers reported that 14,751 written protests (51% + 1) would have to be received to prevent the Council from going forward with the increase and only approximately 1,600 have been received.

Councilmember Sutherland expressed support for the green waste program, citing the benefit to future generations. He also expressed support for the CPI increase to avoid having to go through the public hearing process every year. He suggested that those who are unhappy with legislators in Sacramento should pay more attention to the people they are electing.

Councilmember Brewer noted that Public Works staff has worked very hard to bring the program’s cost down and commended them for their efforts. He stated that he would support the proposed fee increase, even though he does not like to see any increases, because he felt that the City had no choice when facing potential penalties of \$10,000 per day.

Councilmember Furey commended Public Works staff for their efforts to greatly reduce the rate increase necessary to implement the green waste program city-wide. He voiced support for the green waste program, noting the environmental and financial benefits to the community. He echoed the League of Women Voters representative’s comment that it was “about time” since 85 cities in L.A. County already offer this service.

Councilmember Barnett also commended Public Works staff for their efforts. He expressed support for the green waste program, relating his impression that there is overwhelming support for it among residents.

Mayor Scotto stated that while he does not like mandates, he saw no downside to “going green.” He noted that even if naysayers are right and programs like this are not necessary, the only result is an improved environment, but if environmentalists are right and no action is taken, the results could be disastrous.

Councilmember Numark expressed support for the green waste program, stating that he believed it was the right thing to do. He commended Public Works staff for their efforts to find a way to achieve State-mandated goals at minimum cost to residents, noting that the proposed rates are significantly less than in comparable cities in L.A. County.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 90-83, RESOLUTION NO. 92-92, AND
RESOLUTION NO. 2002-87 IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND REPEALING
SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF RESOLUTION NO. 93-92 AND ESTABLISHING
THE RATES FOR THE SANITATION SERVICES FEES

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-12. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Numark requested confirmation that it was within the purview of the City Council Strategic Plan Committee to review the general operations and functions of City departments.

Mayor Scotto offered to meet with Councilmember Numark and the City Manager to further discuss this issue.

17B. Councilmember Numark asked about the possibility of moving up the date for the next Commissioner Certification class to increase the pool of candidates.

City Clerk Herbers reported that it might be possible if the Council wishes to delay commission appointments until March and offered to discuss this matter with the City Manager.

17C. Councilmember Rhilinger announced a presentation entitled “Facebook and Twitter for Seniors” on Wednesday, January 25, at 11:00 a.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

17D. Councilmember Rhilinger reminded viewers of the Torrance Rose Float fundraiser at Kings Hawaiian on Thursday, February 2, with 20% of the proceeds to be donated with presentation of a flyer available at TRFA’s website.

17E. Councilmember Furey asked for Council concurrence to further explore developing a sister-city relationship with a city in Germany.

City Manager Jackson suggested that an item on this topic be prepared for review by the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee, and hearing no objection, Mayor Scotto so ordered.

17F. Mayor Scotto, with the concurrence of Council, requested that City staff bring forward an item confirming and formalizing the City's policy that prevailing wages need not be paid on public works projects where only local or private funds are used.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:44 p.m. City Council adjourned to Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

***Adjourned in Memory of
Edgar Polston***

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on March 13, 2012